

PATENT



Examiner:

Janet L. Epps-Ford

Group Art Unit: 1635

Confirmation No. 6350

Express Mail No.: EL 963417818 US

Date: March 24, 2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In response to the Advisory Action dated December 10, 2003, Applicants submit herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), and respectfully request entry of the following preliminary amendment and reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of the remarks provided below.